

Author: Lieutenant C. Sinclair # [REDACTED] Date Created: 12/13/2021 1955 Hrs Supp #: 1

Supplement #1 Narrative

On December 13, 2021 I, Lt. C. Sinclair [REDACTED] was dispatched to Grant & Wild Heather for a plane crash at approximately 1640 hours.

I arrived on scene and observed Ptlm. VanOverberghe, ISP Trooper Hipsher, and medics already on scene. I observed a red Mini-Max Ultralight Airplane on the northwest corner of Wild Game and Grant. The plane had heavy front-end damage, the wings were severed off, the front axle was knocked off and the engine was pushed in. The plane appeared to have struck a light pole and landed partially on the neighborhood sign for Heather Ridge.

Medics had spoke with the pilot, Joseph Krol, who advised he was not injured and refused medical treatment. I was near the medics and Joseph when I detected an odor of alcoholic beverages on Joseph's breath. Ptlm. VanOverberghe and ISP Trooper Hipsher took Joseph aside to investigate Joseph for impairment.

I spoke with Robert Gerencser who was on scene. Robert reports he also has an ultralight plane and he meets up with Joseph frequently to fly their planes. Robert states they met today at the Chain-o-Lakes Airport (57239 Pine Road) at approximately 1530 hours. Robert states they both flew their planes for approximately 30 minutes. Robert reports he was still flying when he observed Joseph heading back to land his plane. Robert states he observed Joseph approach the landing field too low and strike a light pole. Robert reports that he did not know Joseph had been drinking. I detected no signs of impairment with Robert.

I spoke with [REDACTED], the homeowner president for Heather Ridge Estates, who advised the light pole and the neighborhood sign are owned by the homeowners association. I gave her our case number. I also provided [REDACTED] our case number as the plane was partially in her yard.

Airport Chief Ornat was able to get in contact with Doug Lewis, Aviation Safety Inspector for the FAA in the greater Chicago area, on the phone. I spoke with Doug and he advised Ultralight planes do not require a pilot's license and do not have tail numbers registered. I gave him a summary of the incident and he advised the plane could be moved or released as they did not need to send anybody to the scene.

The fire department investigated for the odor of fuel but deemed the area safe. The plane as impounded by Betcher's towing.

I affirm under the pains and penalties of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct.

Incident Narratives

Original Narrative

Author: Patrolman A. VanOverberghe
 Date Created: 12/13/2021 2102 Hrs
 Supp #: 0

I Patrolman A. VanOverberghe on 12/13/2021 was assigned the West beat of Saint Joseph County. At 1640 I was dispatched to Grant Road and Wild Heather Drive for a plane that crashed. Pilot was out walking around. The plane missed all houses and did property damage to the sub division sign and street light.

Upon arrival, Warren Fire Department and South West Fire were on scene. The firemen pointed out the pilot later identified as Joseph Krol. Joseph was checked for injuries, no injuries reported. I took pictures of the scene and then went to talk to Joseph. I could smell an odor similar to alcohol. I asked Joseph if he had anything to drink and he replied no. I asked Joseph if he would submit to some field sobriety tests. ISP Trooper Hipsher was on scene and observed the tests. Trooper Hipsher administered a field PBT with a result of .114. Joseph was detained by Trooper Hipsher who stated he would handle . Hipsher had left to take Joseph to Memorial to be evaluated before taking him to the jail. Trooper Hipsher advised me that after talking with Joseph, he believes the plane is a 2008 brand is Mini-Max Ultralight red in color.

Lt Sinclair obtained the names of the homeowners association and of the property owner where the plane landed. Lt Sinclair contacted Chief Ornat of the South Bend Airport who made the scene. The FAA was contacted to see if the NTSB needed to be contacted and what they wanted to do with the plane. FAA advised that NTSB did not have to be involved since there is no need for a pilot's license to fly ultralights and no need for them to be in contact with the air traffic control tower. The ultralight has no identification on it, not required.

Betcher's came out to impound the plane and a hold was placed on the plane for DB to investigate (impound number). Pictures of the scene were taken and attached to this report.

I affirm under the pains and penalties of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct.

Signed: Patrolman A. VanOverberghe

Reviewed: Sergeant Mid M. Parmelee